

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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EUR/SE - MR. EAGLETON

S/PRS - MR. HARE

S/S - JMEALUM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 273146

TOSEC 127

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR TU

SUBJECT: NOON PRESS BRIEFING: FOREIGN TRADE BILL AND AID
TO TURKEY

FOLLOWING ARE PERTINENT Q'S AND A'S NOON PRESS BRIEFING
DECEMBER 12, 1974, CONCERNING FOREIGN TRADE BILL AND
MILITARY AID TO TURKEY:

QUOTE: Q: CAN YOU TELL US ANYTHING ABOUT WHERE THINGS
NOW STAND WITH THE TRADE BILL, AND IF THE STATE DEPARTMENT
IS DOING ANYTHING TO GET IT ENACTED AT THIS SESSION?

A: THERE ARE A COUPLE OF POINTS I'D LIKE TO MAKE ON THE
TRADE BILL. ONE IS, I'D LIKE TO DRAW YOUR
ATTENTION TO A PETITION WHICH WAS SIGNED BY TWENTY
SENATORS, AND WHICH WAS INTRODUCED FROM THE SENATE FLOOR
LAST EVENING, WHICH WOULD LIMIT DEBATE ON THE BILL AND
LIMIT AMENDMENTS TO THOSE THAT ARE GERMANE TO THE BILL.

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OBVIOUSLY THIS QUESTION IS FOR THE SENATE TO DECIDE, BUT ON THE PART OF THE ADMINISTRATION, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT PASSAGE OF THE TRADE BILL IN THIS SESSION IS OF THE HIGHEST PRIORITY, AND WE WELCOME THEREFORE THE STEPS INITIATED LAST EVENING DESIGNED TO OBTAIN THAT OBJECTIVE.

Q: WHILE YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT CONGRESS, WOULD YOU HAVE

ANY REACTION TO THE HOUSE ACTION ON THE TURKISH AID AND THE REST OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT?

A: WELL, WITH RESPECT TO TURKISH AID, I BELIEVE THE ADMINISTRATION HAS MADE IT ABUNDANTLY CLEAR -- AND EMPHATICALLY CLEAR -- THAT WE BELIEVE THIS IS COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE.

I WOULD DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS WHICH HE MADE ALSO ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT LAST SATURDAY, AND THAT CONTINUES TO BE OUR POSITION. END QUOTE INGERSOLL

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